

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 24, 2003

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 18, 2003

## Senate Joint Resolution

No. 5

**Introduced by Senators Sher and Burton  
(Coauthor: Senator Kuehl)**

January 30, 2003

Senate Joint Resolution No. 5—Relative to the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 5, as amended, Sher. Giant Sequoia National Monument.

This measure would memorialize the President and Congress to take necessary action to protect the Giant Sequoia National Monument by prohibiting ~~commercial logging~~ *the removal of large trees in all parts of the monument* and encouraging ~~noncommercial~~ and environmentally appropriate management activities, including removal of small trees and brush, that reduce the risk of catastrophic fire, protect rural communities, and restore the Giant Sequoia ecosystem in all parts of the monument, as set forth in the Presidential Proclamation establishing the monument.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The Giant Sequoia National Monument was
- 2 established on April 15, 2000, by a Presidential Proclamation duly
- 3 executed under the Antiquities Act; and
- 4 WHEREAS, The Giant Sequoia National Monument is a
- 5 diverse landscape containing groves of majestic giant sequoia, the



1 largest trees in the world and the sentinel trees of the Sierra  
2 Nevada; and  
3 WHEREAS, The Giant Sequoia National Monument is home to  
4 numerous species of wildlife including Pacific fisher, black bear,  
5 California spotted owl, mountain lion, peregrine falcon, and great  
6 grey owl; and  
7 WHEREAS, Giant sequoias are the only known trees large  
8 enough to provide nesting habitat for the endangered California  
9 condor and remain available as potential habitat for this species;  
10 and  
11 WHEREAS, Giant sequoias are the largest trees ever to have  
12 lived, and rank among the world's longest lived trees, reaching  
13 ages greater than 3,200 years; and  
14 WHEREAS, Native Americans have lived for more than 8,000  
15 years in the Sierra, with archaeological sites, petroglyphs, and  
16 pictographs evident within the monument; and  
17 WHEREAS, The Presidential Proclamation of April 15, 2000,  
18 established a monument boundary of 327,769 acres to be managed  
19 by the United States Forest Service for the purposes of protecting  
20 the whole of the giant sequoia ecosystem; and  
21 WHEREAS, The proclamation prohibited commercial timber  
22 harvesting within the monument and, except for personal  
23 firewood, limited the removal of trees to ecological restoration and  
24 maintenance of public safety; and  
25 WHEREAS, The United States Forest Service has ignored this  
26 direction in preparing a management plan for the Giant Sequoia  
27 National Monument; and  
28 WHEREAS, Nothing in the proclamation diminishes the  
29 jurisdiction of the State of California with respect to fish and  
30 wildlife; and  
31 WHEREAS, The adverse environmental consequences of the  
32 United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service's  
33 proposed draft environmental impact statement, if adopted, far  
34 outweigh the protections of the giant sequoia ecosystem provided  
35 in the existing Sierra Framework and the Presidential  
36 Proclamation; and  
37 WHEREAS, Every effort should be made to protect the giant  
38 sequoia ecosystem as required by Presidential Proclamation; now,  
39 therefore, be it



1     *Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California,*  
2     *jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California  
3     memorializes the President and Congress to take necessary action  
4     to protect the Giant Sequoia National Monument by prohibiting  
5     ~~commercial logging~~ *the removal of large trees* in all parts of the  
6     monument and encouraging ~~noncommercial~~ and environmentally  
7     appropriate management activities, including the removal of small  
8     trees and brush, that reduce the risk of catastrophic fire, protect  
9     rural communities, and restore the ~~giant sequoia~~ *Giant Sequoia*  
10    ecosystem, as set forth in the Presidential Proclamation  
11    establishing the monument; and be it further

12    *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
13    this resolution to the President of the United States, to all Members  
14    of the Congress of the United States, and to the United States  
15    Secretary of Agriculture.

